What is Revolutionary Action?

Revolutionary Action (RA) has been established by a group of local people committed to a revolutionary transformation of society based on the united power of the working class. We have established RA because we disagree with various policies and practices of existing workers and revolutionary organisations. The main issue on which we differ is the nature of democracy, both within the revolutionary workers movement and a future society. This difference is reflected in how RA practices democracy and how we go about trying to assist in the achievement of a truly democratic society.

Revolutionary Action struggles for freedom and liberation to be achieved through a process in which people liberate themselves. To achieve this aim we support the self- mobilisation and self - organisation of the working class, who make up the vast majority of society. RA believes that only the collective democratic action of the oppressed can create a society based upon the fullest possible political democracy. We reject the hierarchical, authoritarian and anti-democratic practices of many workers organisations. RA has no hierarchy. All decisions are made by the membership and any administrative positions are without privilege, recallable and will only exist to administer decisions of the membership.

Revolutionary Action is a collective not a political party. Decisions of the collective may be publicly disagreed with and openly challenged by individual members or factions formed where a group of members disagree with the majority. We feel that the practice among some groups of restricting differences to secret internal debates denies the working class as a whole the ability to gain new ideas and perspectives from them. Democratic procedures are not adopted by RA because we are afraid of discipline or because they seem nicer, but because we think they help build a strong vibrant movement which actually poses a challenge to capitalism. We support the development of action and ideas that promote the concept of self management and try to counter and prevent bureaucracy, hierarchy and elites from emerging in our movement.

We try to cooperate and work with other revolutionary organisations as closely as possible. We believe that open, frank and constructive discussions and united action can assist revolutionary organisations and the workers movement in general. RA members participate in and try to build movements that fight against the misery of capitalism on everyday issues affecting the working class. We try to bring activists together to build campaigns, to fight for progressive social change and to work towards a better world. We try to find new strategies aimed at transforming working people's organisations into democratic, participatory, activist and campaigning bodies.

Revolutionary Action believes that not one group or organisation has a monopoly on the truth for the way forward. We feel that RA can make a contribution to the revolutionary movement but that many other organisations also make important contributions. RA sees itself as a group within the working class, not as intellectuals outside of the class and we do not pretend to represent the majority of people within the class. We wish to create an organisation where individuals who call themselves anarchists, socialists, communists or whatever, can come together to fight against capitalism and it's effects. Within the

boundaries that the collective believes, that the way to create a better world is through workers' self-liberation, the greatest amount of pluralism and debate is encouraged.

RA is trying to help organise the structure of a new society within the shell of the old. We view the democratic revolutionary movement as the embryo of a new society and the instrument for achieving it. We envisage a successful revolution being the result, not of a forcible seizure of state power nor the winning of an election, but of mass democratic action. We try to organise from the bottom up, arguing for full power within revolutionary organisations and mass movements for all working class people, so as to lay the foundations for real democracy.

RA stands for democracy, freedom, dignity, respect, peace and love. We try to build all of these amongst our families, our friends, our work mates and our communities. We oppose and try to defeat those who keep us down, spoil our lives and exploit us. No one in RA believes that we can create a class-less society just by being nice to one another, but neither do we believe that a truly revolutionary movement can be built unless those who are involved treat each other with respect, help to look after each other and try to create a living alternative to capitalism.

While the working class is presently demoralised and in disarray. It is still ready and capable of uniting and taking militant action. In the last few years we have seen tens of thousands of workers take part in militant action at the s11 blockades, the picket lines at Patrick's docks and against the atrocities in East Timor. These mobilisations were not organised by any single party or group. They were the result of different groups organising separately and linking together around common demands and in united action. They were a demonstration of the power of the working class.

RA wants to help build working class power. We do not seek leadership but rather try to assist ongoing struggles while drawing out and articulating their revolutionary implications. RA wants to be a flexible and innovative organisation that can help to educate and organise people. We aim to create, maintain and broaden networks in the international revolutionary movement and try to incorporate into every aspect of our practice democracy, an absence of authoritarianism or hierarchy. We challenge racism, sexism, homophobia and nationalism - all weapons the rulers use to pit us against each other. In the struggle for the renewal of the revolutionary movement, we try to disseminate the widest range of progressive writings and theory. We try to understand and popularise the contributions made to the movement by a wide variety of people and groups including those considered as "dissident", as well as the thousands of revolutionaries who may never have been regarded as leaders or written books.

There is no one strategy for creating a better world but a multiplicity of interrelated and complimentary strategies. The renewal of the revolutionary movement requires an understanding that there is no single way to be revolutionary, there are thousands of ways of being revolutionary. Through a democratic, militant and dynamic struggle against capitalism we aim to help transform ourselves, our class and the world. Revolutionary Action wants to help make it possible for people to gain control of their everyday lives and to help make life as marvelous and fulfilling as it can be.

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